

The Oklahoma City Times

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BEWARE OF POLITICS

If Kansas City was asked to name its finest civic virtue, the reply in all probability would be, "Absence of politics in the management of our public schools." The public schools of Kansas City have an international reputation for efficiency. To be chosen to membership on the Kansas City school board is an honor that appeals to its most cultured and influential citizens. The Tammany politicians of Kansas City and Jackson county who stuffed ballot boxes and stole elections, were wise enough to keep their hands off the public school system of Kansas City.

Oklahoma City has a splendidly equipped public school system. Not an ounce of energy for its advancement should be wasted or misappropriated. There should be determination on the part of every citizen to protect the public school system of Oklahoma City against the slightest political intrigue.

For several months there has been more or less discussion of public school matters that approached dangerously close to what should be the forbidden line of politics. The Times holds no brief for either side in the controversy. The Times feels that intelligent persons may properly differ in their opinions, but that no good citizen may proceed to the extremity of foolish strife in matters affecting the integrity of our public school system. There should be certain times for the establishment of school policies, and if those policies are found to be undesirable, their abandonment should follow the close of the period for which they were established. Newspapers as well as individuals should refrain from encouraging that kind of strife; instead, they should hold to the strictest accountability all persons who (ment).

The Federation of Patronage clubs by vote has declined against mixing in political fights. The Times congratulates both the members of the clubs and the people of Oklahoma City. If schools are to be progressive, there always will be conflict of opinion about the best way of conducting them. But these differences of opinion should be discussed temperately and with due regard to the fact that public schools are peculiarly susceptible to the evils of politics.

The success of our public schools depends mostly upon the women of Oklahoma City. The Times feels sure that they are conscious of their responsibility and will exercise it with wisdom and discretion.

OKLAHOMA AND GOOD ROADS.

The Oklahoma legislature would be deserving of praise if it should do no more than provide for the systematic construction and maintenance of good roads throughout the state under the direction of a competent engineer employed by the state. Governor Williams is to be commended for his approval of such a plan, as it is a matter that involves every form of industry, every social relation and every kind of real progress affecting the people of Oklahoma.

By the haphazard methods of the road-builders Oklahoma wastes annually an enormous sum of money. An astonishing absurdity is the fact that about nine out of every ten men are cocksure that they know all about building roads, though as a matter of fact scarcely one in a hundred is qualified to express a halfway intelligent opinion upon the subject. The average maintenance of roads in this state is an exasperating joke. At more or less regular intervals the road-builders assemble and tear up the roads with furious industry. Good roads are demolished and bad roads are made worse. There is no subsequent effort to utilize the results of the these pernicious onslaughts; no thought of dragging the roads and holding in place the loosened soil until the roads are firmly crowned.

No community should be permitted to work its roads save under the direction of a competent road builder, and it should be the duty of the state to prescribe uniform methods.

Tons of literature in support of the "back-to-the-farm" movement are wasted annually, for the reason that nobody is going back to the farm if the old conditions of isolation are to remain. Without good roads there will be no improvement in farm life in Oklahoma. If life on the farm is to be more than a sordid existence, provision must be made by the state for single communities will not do it.

for making attractive the surroundings of farm life. It should be possible for farmers easily to enjoy so-

cial intercourse; speedily to reach local markets in all kinds of weather, and to secure for their children at home the advantage of a high school education. Oklahoma has made possible the latter by its consolidated school district system. No man, save under the dire stress of necessity, will take his family to the inhospitable surroundings of a roadless farm.

Improvement of farm life in Oklahoma has been neglected, almost criminally, by the state. The country is years behind the towns. Let it not be forgotten that Oklahoma is an agricultural region, that the towns are wholly dependent upon the country, and that if the latter is not improved Oklahoma will degenerate.

The Times is absolutely convinced that Oklahoma's greatest present need is good roads—the right kind of good roads. It will require ten years to build them as they should be built. The legislature bound and the responsibility will disappear with the building of good roads.

OPPOSED BY THE PEOPLE

The North American Review, reading government ownership of ships:

"This proposal, although furthered by the secretary of the treasury and warmly espoused by the president, has little public favor. It will be attacked as undemocratic, as a plain subsidy; as a deterrent of private investment in competition with the navy, which avows its intention to transport business at a loss, as a means only to shipbuilders and possibly to owners of inland German ships; and as pernicious to the manufacture of peace with foreign nations."

To the politicians took hold of it and the government set aside a large sum for the relief of the cotton planters. The plan was a complete failure, for nothing was ever done. The banker at Sand Springs took the right course and saved the farmers in his community just as the bankers throughout the south could have done had they taken hold of it.

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Brother Eugene Lorton of the Tulsa World and Brother Bill Stryker of the Tulsa Democrat are said to have buried their ancient grudge, and may now be seen almost any day walking arm-in-arm along the vibrant avenues of their wondering city. Newspaper men too often are the small boys of their business community, knocking the chip off the other's shoulder, to the delight of bystanders, and with injury to their own self-respect and the influence of their newspapers.

ABOUT BACHELORS.

The farmers for many miles around," says the Sand Springs Leader, "are much elated over the contest extended them by the Sand Springs State bank, which came to their relief last fall when there was no market for cotton, and not only advanced them \$20 on each bale of cotton, but furnished them storage also. The cotton was sold during the past week for 7.78 cents a pound. A few of the farmers who hesitated in getting in with the rest are now buying the bank to co-operate with them in getting the advanced price."

The name of this banker is not given, but it should be held up as a shining example to every other banker in the state. The contention was made last fall that the cotton situation was up to the bankers of the state, wherein Clegg said it was their opportunity to save the state from getting the advanced price."

Many of us believe in the single tax. It is sound, economic proposition. It proposes that a man who improves a vacant piece of ground with a building should not be taxed more for doing it, but rather should be encouraged to do so; but that the tightwad who hangs on to a vacant piece of ground while his enterprising neighbors surround it with costly improvements should be taxed so much that it would be unprofitable for him to let it remain vacant. Why is not this principle analogous to bachelorhood? Why should the husband and father be heavily taxed—compelled to maintain his family, which is doing the state a service, and at the same time pay the same proportion of taxes as the bachelor when he is doing his share, except to prevent any male and the bachelor is doing his darnest to bring it about?

I do not advocate imprisonment of bachelors, though that penalty is not wholly devoid of merit, but I do believe farther should receive some discrimination in his favor for the Lord knows he has had enough time at best.

UNPUBLISHED TELEPHONE bills for the month of January are past due. If not paid by 5 p.m. of the 15th, service will be discontinued. Pioneer Tel. & Tel. Co.—Ady.

AID SOLDIER'S WIVES

Unmarried Mates of English Tommies Are Recognized by Association Which Will Help Them.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The question of aiding financially the unmarried wives of soldiers was taken up and decided favorably by a vote of three to one at a general meeting of the Soldiers and Sailors' Families' association held here. This form of relief union is encouraged indirectly by army regulations against marrying and there are 1,350 such cases out of the 75,000 families enlisted in the books of the society. Aid is to be given, however, only where a red在家 is maintained by the woman. To help these unfortunate is not in view of the majority of the committee members of the licensing of vice, as asserted by the minority.

Speaking on the measure, Lord St. Audries said:

"As an old soldier, I deny the gross insult that soldiers are more innocent than men of the same class in other walks of life. If the soldier has not gone through the form of marriage, it is the fault of the people of this country, who for a hundred years have disengaged from marrying while serving because the separation allowance would come out of the taxpayers' pockets. I do not care whether the couple is technically right or wrong, but I believe that in the judgment of the great majority of the people of this country they have acted in accordance with the dictates of Christianity and humanity."

In the discussion of any proposal it is well to get back to fundamental truths. To start with, the marriage relation is one of the few divinely ordained institutions. In the first chapter of Genesis we find:

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him male and female created He them." And in the second chapter we find:

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